

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 26, 2005

R. David Paulison  
Acting Director  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street SW  
Washington, DC 20472

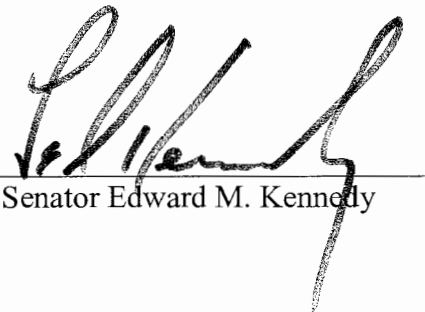
Dear Director Paulison:

As you are well aware, Governor Mitt Romney last week requested a federal disaster declaration for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts because of severe flooding throughout the state, and we have urged you to support that request. While we appreciate that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) issued an emergency declaration for Bristol County, we are very concerned over the slow pace of FEMA's response to other hard-hit areas across that state that have suffered through near continuous rainfall since October 7.

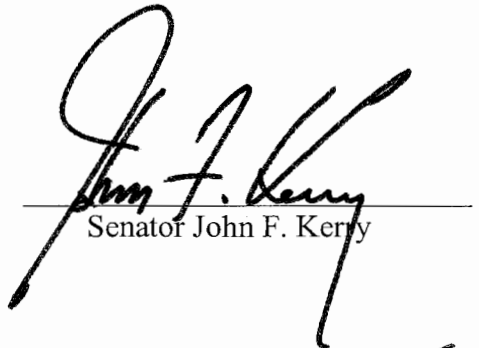
The Commonwealth has identified over \$11 million in damage caused by the flooding. Schools, road, bridges and other public infrastructure have been damaged. Two hundred and fifty homes have suffered major damage, seventy five have been destroyed, and over two thousand have incurred enough damage to warrant individual assistance.

We recognize that FEMA is handling multiple weather disasters. However, we also know that FEMA has had assessment personnel on the ground for several days and that the Commonwealth is working hard to provide accurate damage information. We do not understand the ongoing delay. We request that you immediately review the matter and make a favorable recommendation to the President so that FEMA can begin helping the affected communities.

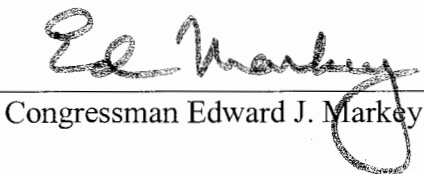
Sincerely,



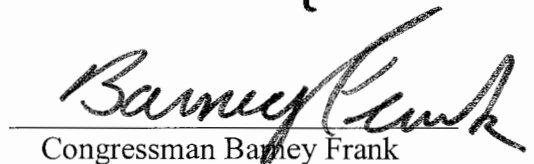
Senator Edward M. Kennedy




Senator John F. Kerry



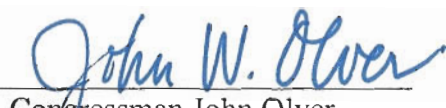
Congressman Edward J. Markey




Congressman Barney Frank



Congressman Richard E. Neal



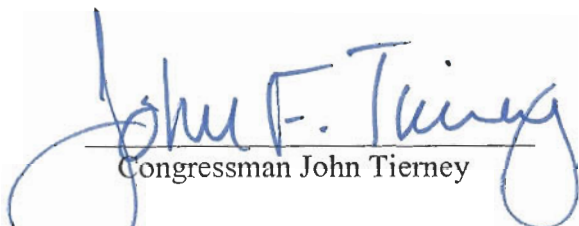
Congressman John Olver



Congressman William D. Delahunt




Congressman Marty Meehan




Congressman John Tierney



Congressman Michael P. Capuano



Congressman James P. McGovern



Congressman Stephen F. Lynch